

TELPAS and TELPAS Alternate Assessment Guidance

Updated March 30, 2020

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The testing windows for the Texas English Language Proficiency Assessment System (TELPAS) and TELPAS Alternate have both been extended through May 29, 2020 to allow a Local Education Agency (LEA) to complete optional testing if it chooses. Below is guidance regarding the TELPAS and TELPAS Alternate administrations. For specific information related to using TELPAS results for English Learner (EL) reclassification, see the TELPAS and LPAC Guidance on the [Special Education and Special Populations Guidance](#) webpage.

1. Can the TELPAS Reading and/or Listening & Speaking online tests be administered to students from home?

No, the TELPAS tests must be administered in standardized testing conditions.

2. Can TELPAS writing samples be collected via digital learning?

Yes, writing samples should reflect authentic classroom instruction, and that includes remote or digital learning in the current environment. As a reminder, writing samples in which students relied heavily on editing tools or dictionary use should not be used. Writing samples should not be collected for the sole purpose of assembling TELPAS writing collections.

3. Can teachers continue to collect writing samples through physical paper writing assignments that are sent to students, completed, and returned to the teacher?

Yes, refer to the Logistical Considerations for Paper-Based Packet Pickup to Mitigate Public Health Risks document that is posted on the Coronavirus [Instructional Continuity Planning Framework](#) webpage for additional guidance regarding handling paper material assignments.

4. Can TELPAS raters calibrate from home?

No, TELPAS rater calibration **cannot** be completed from home. LEAs may choose to use the centralized rater option and have raters who have already completed calibration rate writing collections.

5. Can TELPAS writing collections be rated at home?

Yes, raters **may** complete ratings of writing collections at home if permitted by their LEA. However, LEAs must ensure that the process is valid and FERPA regulations are maintained. Remember that the TELPAS window has been extended until **May 29, 2020**.

Version 1

Updated 3/30/20

6. Can holistic domains (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) for grades K and 1 be rated from home?

Yes, as long as raters have sufficient information to designate an accurate rating. LEAs must ensure that the process is valid and FERPA regulations are maintained.

7. Can incomplete TELPAS writing collections be rated?

The TELPAS assessment window has been extended through May 29, 2020 to allow LEAs to complete the administration if the LEA chooses. If a LEA decides to complete ratings for the writing domain, then the current guidelines should be followed, including the requirement for collections to be complete.

8. Do TELPAS writing collections need to be verified if continuing with the rating process?

Yes, LEAs that choose to complete the rating of writing collections should continue to follow the TELPAS administration procedures to ensure validity and reliability; this includes the verification process.

9. Can LEA staff electronically (e.g., text, email, video conferencing software, etc.) share writing samples, writing collections, or rating rosters with verifiers, raters, and other personnel administering TELPAS to complete the administration?

Yes, LEAs may determine locally if electronic tools will be allowed to complete the rating process for this year's TELPAS administration; however, LEAs must ensure all procedures are compliant with FERPA regulations.

10. Can LEA staff return to campuses or LEA offices to pick up writing collections, rating rosters, Observable Behaviors, etc.?

LEAs should consult with local authorities to ensure current regulations are maintained for any building access or materials handling.

11. Can LEAs request a special administration of TELPAS listening and speaking (i.e., holistic rating) if they were not able to complete the online tests before school closure?

No, the special administration process is allowed only when a student needs a testing accommodation that is not possible to provide in an online setting. The special administration is not for situations related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

12. How do I return TELPAS paper reading materials?

If a LEA was approved to administer a TELPAS reading paper test, the deadline to return nonscorable materials is **June 5, 2020**. Refer to the communication STAAR Alt 2 / TELPAS Material Return that is posted under the Assessment section of the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Support and Guidance](#) webpage.

13. What do LEAs need to do if they choose not to complete TELPAS or TELPAS Alternate?

LEAs that choose not to complete TELPAS or TELPAS Alternate are not required to notify the Texas Education Agency. If the LEA wants to receive scores for students who completed all or part of TELPAS, they should make sure that all tests have been submitted or marked complete and stop the test session. If a LEA wants to receive scores for students taking TELPAS Alternate, they will need to make sure that all items have been answered in the score entry screen and have been submitted.